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RECURSIVE M-ESTIMATORS OF LOCATION AND SCALE FOR
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HILL CENTER FOR STOCHASTIC PROC J ENGLUND ET AL

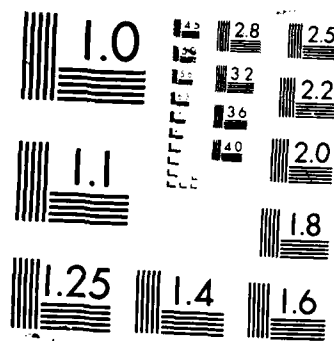
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Recursive M-estimators
of location and scale
for dependent sequences

by

Jan-Eric Englund, Ulla Holst
and David Ruppert *

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1. INTRODUCTION.

P. Huber introduced the simultaneous M-estimates of location and scale, η and σ , based on observations y_1, \dots, y_n , as a solution (T_n, S_n) of

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^n \psi(S_n^{-1}(y_i - T_n)) = 0, \\ \sum_{i=1}^n \chi(S_n^{-1}(y_i - T_n)) = 0, \end{cases}$$

where ψ and χ are suitably chosen functions. In most cases ψ is an odd and χ an even function. In particular he studied M-estimators generated by functions ψ and χ of the form (Huber's Proposal 2)

$$(1.2) \quad \begin{cases} \psi(x) = \text{sign}(x) \min(|x|, k), \\ \chi(x) = \min(k^2, x^2) - \beta_k, \end{cases}$$

with β_k chosen to make $E(\chi(z)) = 0$ if the distribution of z is $N(0,1)$. We refer to the books by Huber (1981) or Hampel et al (1986) for a review of the properties of the M-estimators. There it is proved that, if the observations are i.i.d. with a symmetric distribution, ψ is an odd and χ an even function, it follows that

$$(1.3) \quad \begin{cases} n^{1/2}(T_n - \eta) \in \text{AsN}(0, \sigma^2 E(\psi^2(z_1)) / (E(\psi'(z_1)))^2), \\ n^{1/2}(S_n - \sigma) \in \text{AsN}(0, \sigma^2 E(\chi^2(z_1)) / (E(z_1 \chi'(z_1)))^2), \end{cases}$$

where $z_1 = \sigma^{-1}(y_1 - \eta)$. In this case T_n and S_n are asymptotically independent.

In real time situations, where the estimate is updated when new observations are obtained, it is often preferable to use a recursive estimator. Martin and Masreliez (1975) pointed out the possibility of constructing recursive M-estimators using a stochastic approximation approach. The classical results for stochastic approximation algorithms

can be applied rather straightforwardly to investigate the asymptotic properties of recursive M-estimators when the observations are independent.

The behaviour of recursive M-estimators in dependent situations are less known. The pure location parameter case with n -dependent and strongly regular observations is studied in Holst (1980) and Holst (1984) respectively. For practical use some recursive estimator of scale must be constructed and coupled to the estimator of the location parameter. Recursive scale-estimators which are variants of the median absolute deviation are studied in Holst (1985).

A broader approach to the estimating problem is to construct recursive algorithms based on (1.1). In this paper we prove strong convergence of estimators of the form

$$(1.4) \quad \begin{cases} \eta_{n+1} = \eta_n + (n+1)^{-1} \tilde{H}_n^{(1)} \tilde{\sigma}_n^{-1} \psi(\tilde{\sigma}_n^{-1}(y_{n+1} - \eta_n)), \\ \sigma_{n+1} = \sigma_n + (n+1)^{-1} \tilde{H}_n^{(2)} \tilde{\sigma}_n^{-1} \chi(\tilde{\sigma}_n^{-1}(y_{n+1} - \eta_n)), \\ \eta_0, \sigma_0, \tilde{H}_0^{(1)}, \tilde{H}_0^{(2)} \text{ arbitrary and finite,} \end{cases}$$

and mainly we discuss the following choice of $\tilde{H}_n^{(1)}$ and $\tilde{H}_n^{(2)}$:

$$(1.5) \quad \begin{cases} \tilde{H}_n^{(1)} = (n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \psi'(\tilde{\sigma}_{i-1}^{-1}(y_i - \eta_{i-1})))^{-1} \\ \tilde{H}_n^{(2)} = (n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{\sigma}_{i-1}^{-1}(y_i - \eta_{i-1}) \chi'(\tilde{\sigma}_{i-1}^{-1}(y_i - \eta_{i-1})))^{-1} \end{cases}$$

With the notation \tilde{v} we mean v truncated above and below.

We consider the case when the observations $\{y_i\}_1^\infty$ can be described by a strictly stationary process satisfying certain strong mixing conditions. For the analysis we assume that ψ and χ satisfy some regularity conditions. These are introduced in Section 2.

Strong convergence of η_n and σ_n and also of the adaptive sequences $\tilde{H}_n^{(1)}$ and $\tilde{H}_n^{(2)}$ is proved in Section 3.

In Englund, Holst and Ruppert (1987) we prove a strong representation theorem for the estimators. It is possible to derive asymptotic distributions using this theorem together with suitable forms of the Central Limit Theorem. When the observations are a sequence of i.i.d. variables it follows that (η_n, σ_n) has the same asymptotic distribution as the nonrecursive estimator (T_n, S_n) . Comments on the asymptotic distribution is given in Section 4. Further we discuss whether our choice of $H_n^{(1)}$ and $H_n^{(2)}$ is optimal or if it is possible to find a better one. We consider a gain matrix which might be preferred, but this matrix contains unknown parameters which like a and b must be estimated, and this leads to an expansion of the dimension of the parameter.

In Section 5 we illustrate the behaviour of the estimates for Huber's Proposal 2 when the observations are i.i.d. with a contaminated normal distribution.

2. NOTATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS.

To incorporate the adaptive sequences $H_n^{(1)}$ and $H_n^{(2)}$ we rewrite the algorithm in the following way

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{cases} \theta_{n+1} = \theta_n + (n+1)^{-1} H_n h(\theta_n, y_{n+1}), \\ \theta_0, H_0 \text{ arbitrary and finite,} \end{cases}$$

where

$$\theta_n = (\eta_n, \sigma_n, a_n, b_n)^T.$$

Further

$$h(\theta_n, y_{n+1}) = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\sigma}_n \psi(u_{n+1}) \\ \tilde{\sigma}_n \chi(u_{n+1}) \\ \psi'(u_{n+1}) - a_n \\ u_{n+1} \chi'(u_{n+1}) - b_n \end{pmatrix}$$

with

$$u_n = \sigma_{n-1}^{-1} (y_n - \eta_{n-1})$$

and

$$(2.2) \quad H_n = \text{diag}(\tilde{a}_n^{-1}, \tilde{b}_n^{-1}, 1, 1)$$

With the notation $\tilde{\sigma}_n$ we mean σ_n truncated above by a large positive number v_2 and below by a small positive number v_1 so that

$$(2.3) \quad \tilde{\sigma}_n = \begin{cases} v_1 & \text{if } \tilde{\sigma}_n < v_1, \\ \sigma_n & \text{if } v_1 \leq \tilde{\sigma}_n \leq v_2, \\ v_2 & \text{if } \tilde{\sigma}_n > v_2. \end{cases}$$

Throughout the paper it is understood that $v_1 \leq \sigma \leq v_2$. The above notation will also be used for \tilde{a}_n and \tilde{b}_n . Note that

$$a_n = n^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^n \psi'(u_j)$$

and

$$b_n = n^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \chi'(u_j)$$

so that with H_n defined as in (2.2) we get algorithm (1.4) with $H_n^{(1)}$ and $H_n^{(2)}$ given by (1.5).

Define

$$\bar{h}(x) = E(h(x, y_1))$$

and let θ be the solution of $\bar{h}(\theta) = 0$, where $\theta = (\eta, \sigma, a, b)^T$, that is with $z_1 = \sigma^{-1}(y_1 - \eta)$

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{cases} E(\psi(z_1)) = 0, \\ E(\chi(z_1)) = 0, \\ E(\psi'(z_1)) = a, \\ E(z_1 \chi'(z_1)) = b. \end{cases}$$

Let $F_1^m = F(y_1, \dots, y_m)$ be the σ -algebra generated by the random variables y_1, \dots, y_m . The sequence of strong mixing coefficients α_i is defined

$$\alpha_i = \sup_m \alpha(F_1^{m-1}, F_m^m) = \sup_m \sup_{F \in F_1^{m-1}, G \in F_m^m} |P(FG) - P(F)P(G)|.$$

Further, we need the following notations $n(k) = [k^\delta]$ for some $\delta > 2$ and

$$\rho_k = \sum_{i=n(k)}^{n(k+1)-1} (i+1)^{-1} = O(k^{-1}).$$

The constant C is positive and may change from line to line. For shortness we usually write z instead of z_1 below.

Finally we list the following assumptions for later use.

A1. The sequence of observations $\{y_i\}_1^m$ is strictly stationary and strong mixing with $\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i^{1-\varepsilon} < \infty$ for some $0 < \varepsilon < 1$. The marginal distribution is symmetric, continuous and positive in a neighbourhood of η .

A2. The function $h(x, y)$ is bounded and Lipschitz-continuous both as a function of x and y i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} \|h(x_1, y) - h(x_2, y)\| &\leq K_1 \|x_1 - x_2\| \\ \|h(x, y_1) - h(x, y_2)\| &\leq K_2 \|y_1 - y_2\| \end{aligned}$$

for some positive constants K_1 and K_2 .

A3. The function $\psi(\cdot)$ is bounded, increasing (strictly increasing in a neighbourhood of zero) and odd. The function $\chi(\cdot)$ is bounded, increasing on $(0, \infty)$ (strictly increasing in a neighbourhood of zero) and even.

A4. The function $\bar{h}(\cdot)$ satisfies $\bar{h}(\theta) = 0$.

A5. The following functions exist and are bounded:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi^{(k)}(x) \text{ for } 1 \leq k \leq 3, \quad x^k \psi^{(k)}(x) \text{ for } 1 \leq k \leq 2, \quad x^2 \psi^{(3)}(x), \\ \chi^{(k)}(x) \text{ for } 1 \leq k \leq 2 \text{ and } x^k \chi^{(k)}(x) \text{ for } 1 \leq k \leq 3. \end{aligned}$$

Note that A2 holds if the functions $x\psi'(x)$, $x\psi''(x)$, $x\chi'(x)$ and $x^2\chi''(x)$ exist and are bounded and that A5 is a strong assumption which is used in Section 4 only.

3. ALMOST SURE CONVERGENCE.

In this section we study almost sure convergence of the algorithm (2.1). It is proved in Theorem 3.1 that $\theta_n \rightarrow \theta$ a.s., where θ solves $\bar{h}(\theta) = 0$. The proof consists of two parts. Following Ruppert (1983) we show that

$$(3.1) \quad \theta_{n(k+1)} = \theta_{n(k)} + \sum_{i=n(k)}^{n(k+1)-1} (i+1)^{-1} H_i \bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)}) + o(k^{-1}).$$

This is accomplished by writing

$$\begin{aligned} (3.2) \quad \theta_{n(k+1)} &= \theta_{n(k)} + \sum_{i=n(k)}^{n(k+1)-1} (i+1)^{-1} H_i \bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)}) + \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=n(k)}^{n(k+1)-1} (i+1)^{-1} H_{n(k)} (h(\theta_{n(k)}, y_{i+1}) - \bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)})) + \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=n(k)}^{n(k+1)-1} (i+1)^{-1} (H_i - H_{n(k)}) (h(\theta_{n(k)}, y_{i+1}) - \bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)})) + \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=n(k)}^{n(k+1)-1} (i+1)^{-1} H_i (h(\theta_i, y_{i+1}) - h(\theta_{n(k)}, y_{i+1})) \\ &= \theta_{n(k)} + \sum_{i=n(k)}^{n(k+1)-1} (i+1)^{-1} H_i \bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)}) + \\ &\quad + R_{k,n(k+1)-1} + S_{k,n(k+1)-1} + T_{k,n(k+1)-1}, \end{aligned}$$

say, and then we prove that $R_{k,n(k+1)-1}$, $S_{k,n(k+1)-1}$ and $T_{k,n(k+1)-1}$ all are $o(k^{-1})$. The most involved expression, $R_{k,n(k+1)-1}$, is handled in Lemma 3.3, which is a lemma by Ruppert (1983, Lemma 3.2). The second part of the proof is to show that (3.1) is sufficient to establish

convergence. This is verified using Lemma 3.4, which is proved by a technique similar to the one used by Blum (1954).

In Lemma 3.1 we prove that $\{g(y_i)\}_1^m$ is a mixingale with parameters ψ_m of size $-1/2$ and c_m a constant if $g(\cdot)$ is a bounded function with $E(g(y_1)) = 0$. For a definition of mixingales and notations, see McLeish (1975). Also the result in Lemma 3.2 is a mixingale inequality by McLeish (1975, Theorem 1.6).

LEMMA 3.1 Let $g(\cdot)$ be a bounded Borel-measurable function with $E(g(y_1)) = 0$. If A_1 holds then $\{g(y_i)\}_1^m$ is a mixingale with parameters ψ_m of size $-1/2$ and c_m a constant.

Proof Let $F_m^n = F\{y_m, \dots, y_n\}$. Lemma 2.1 by McLeish (1975) with $p = 2$ and $r = \infty$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} \|E(g(Y_n) | F_{-\infty}^{n-m}) - E(g(Y_n))\|_2 &= \|E(g(Y_n) | F_{-\infty}^{n-m})\|_2 \\ &\leq 2(2^{1/2} + 1) \sqrt{\alpha(F_{-\infty}^{n-m}, F_n^m)} \|g(Y_n)\|_\infty \\ &\leq C \alpha_m^{1/2}, \end{aligned}$$

that is $\psi_m = \alpha_m^{1/2}$ and $c_m = C$. The fact that $\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i^{1-\epsilon} < \infty$ for some $0 < \epsilon < 1$ implies that ψ_m is of size $-1/2$ according to McLeish (1975, p. 831). This proves the lemma. \square

LEMMA 3.2 Let $\{g(y_i)\}_1^m$ be defined as in Lemma 3.1. Then there exists a constant c such that

$$E(\max_{n \leq m} |\sum_{i=1}^n d_i g(y_i)|^2) \leq c \sum_{i=1}^m d_i^2$$

for all m and constants d_1, \dots, d_m .

Proof It is obvious from Lemma 3.1 that $\{d_i g(y_i)\}_1^m$ is a mixingale with parameters ψ_m of size $-1/2$ and $c_m = d_m C$. Theorem 1.6 by McLeish (1975) proves the lemma. \square

LEMMA 3.3 If A1-A2 hold then

$$\sup_{x \in R^1} \max_{n(k) \leq l < n(k+1)} \rho_k^{-1} \left\| \sum_{i=n(k)}^l i^{-1} (h(x, y_{i+1}) - \bar{h}(x)) \right\| \rightarrow 0$$

when $k \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof According to Ruppert (1983, Lemma 3.2), we have to verify his assumptions A3-A6. A3 is obvious, A4 is exactly Lemma 3.2 above if $r = \infty$ and A5 is satisfied since $h(x, y)$ is bounded. Finally A6 follows from the Lipschitz continuity of $h(x, y)$ as a function of y . This proves Lemma 3.3. \square

LEMMA 3.4 Let $t(\cdot)$ be a bounded function from R^n to R , $x^{(j)}$ an element of R^1 and $\{x_k\}$ a sequence of r.v. satisfying the following assumptions:

B1. $x_{k+1}^{(j)} - x_k^{(j)} = D_k t(x_k) + o(k^{-1})$ a.s. for some positive sequence $\{D_k\}_1^\infty$ satisfying $K_1 k^{-1} \leq D_k \leq K_2 k^{-1}$ where K_1 and K_2 are positive constants.

B2. For all $\gamma > 0$ there are $\delta_1, \delta_2 > 0$ and N_γ satisfying $\sup t(x_k) = -\delta_1$, where the supremum is for $\{x_k : x_k^{(j)} > x^{(j)} + \gamma\}$, and $\inf t(x_k) = \delta_2$, where the infimum is for $\{x_k : x_k^{(j)} < x^{(j)} - \gamma\}$, for all $k \geq N_\gamma$.

Then $x_k^{(j)} \rightarrow x^{(j)}$ a.s.

Proof Assume that $x_k^{(j)} \rightarrow \infty$. The assumptions make it possible to find a constant N_1 such that $D_k t(x_k) + o(k^{-1}) < 0$ for $k > N_1$, and thus $x_{k+1}^{(j)} < x_k^{(j)}$ and hence we get a contradiction. (The case $x_k^{(j)} \rightarrow -\infty$ is treated in the same way.) Now assume that $x_k^{(j)}$ doesn't converge, that is $\liminf x_k^{(j)} < \limsup x_k^{(j)}$, and also assume that $\limsup x_k^{(j)} > x^{(j)}$. (The case $\limsup x_k^{(j)} \leq x^{(j)}$ is handled by a similar argument.) Define γ from the relation $\limsup x_k^{(j)} = x^{(j)} + 3\gamma$. Take N_2 so large that $-D_k \delta_1 + o(k^{-1}) < 0$ for $k > N_2$. Then we can find $N_2 \leq n, m > n+1$

such that $x^{(j)}_n < x^{(j)}_n < x^{(j)}_n + \gamma$, $x^{(j)}_n + \gamma \leq x^{(j)}_k \leq x^{(j)}_n + 2\gamma$
for $k = n+1, \dots, m-1$ and $x^{(j)}_m > x^{(j)}_n + 2\gamma$. This is possible since
 $x^{(j)}_{k+1} - x^{(j)}_k \rightarrow 0$. Now

$$x^{(j)}_m - x^{(j)}_n = \sum_{k=n}^{m-1} (D_k \tau(x_k) + o(k^{-1})) < D_n \tau(x_n) + o(n^{-1})$$

and this quantity can be made arbitrarily small, which is a contradiction. \square

Theorem 3.1 will now be stated.

THEOREM 3.1 Let θ_n be generated by algorithm (2.1). If A1-A4 hold, then $\theta_n \rightarrow \theta$ a.s. as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof The first part is to prove that

$$(3.3) \quad \theta_{n(k+1)} - \theta_{n(k)} = \sum_{i=n(k)}^{n(k+1)-1} (i+1)^{-1} H_i \bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)}) + o(k^{-1}).$$

For $n(k) \leq l < n(k+1)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_{l+1} &= \theta_l + (l+1)^{-1} H_l h(\theta_l, y_{l+1}) \\ &= \theta_{n(k)} + \sum_{i=n(k)}^l (i+1)^{-1} H_i h(\theta_i, y_{i+1}) \\ &= \theta_{n(k)} + \sum_{i=n(k)}^l (i+1)^{-1} H_i \bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)}) + \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=n(k)}^l (i+1)^{-1} H_{n(k)} (h(\theta_{n(k)}, y_{i+1}) - \bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)})) + \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=n(k)}^l (i+1)^{-1} (H_i - H_{n(k)}) (h(\theta_{n(k)}, y_{i+1}) - \bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)})) + \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=n(k)}^l (i+1)^{-1} H_i (h(\theta_i, y_{i+1}) - h(\theta_{n(k)}, y_{i+1})) \\ &= \theta_{n(k)} + \sum_{i=n(k)}^l (i+1)^{-1} H_i \bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)}) + R_{k,l} + S_{k,l} + T_{k,l}. \end{aligned}$$

The fact that $\|R_{k,l}\| = o(k^{-1})$ follows from Lemma 3.3 and due to the boundedness of $h(x, y)$ we also have $\|S_{k,l}\| = o(k^{-1})$ if we can prove

that

$$\sup_{n(k) < i < n(k+1)} \|H_i - H_{n(k)}\| = o(1).$$

This follows easily for our choice of H_i . The term $T_{k,l}$ is treated by writing

$$\begin{aligned} \|T_{k,l}\| &= \left\| \sum_{i=n(k)}^l (i+1)^{-1} H_i(h(\theta_i, y_{i+1}) - h(\theta_{n(k)}, y_{i+1})) \right\| \\ &\leq C \sum_{i=n(k)}^l (i+1)^{-1} \|h(\theta_i, y_{i+1}) - h(\theta_{n(k)}, y_{i+1})\| \\ &\leq C \sum_{i=n(k)}^l (i+1)^{-1} \|\theta_i - \theta_{n(k)}\| \\ &\leq C \rho_k \max_{n(k) \leq i < n(k+1)} \|\theta_i - \theta_{n(k)}\| \end{aligned}$$

since $h(x, y)$ is Lipschitz continuous in x . Now we have proved that

$$\|\theta_{l+1} - \theta_{n(k)}\| \leq C_1 \rho_k + o(\rho_k) + C_2 \rho_k \max_{n(k) \leq i < n(k+1)} \|\theta_i - \theta_{n(k)}\|.$$

The inequality

$$(3.4) \quad \max_{n(k) \leq i < n(k+1)} \|\theta_i - \theta_{n(k)}\| \leq (C_1 \rho_k + o(\rho_k)) / (1 - C_2 \rho_k)$$

for large k gives $\|T_{k,l}\| = o(k^{-1})$. Summarizing we have verified (3.3).

The second part of the proof is to show that this gives the result stated in the theorem. We apply Lemma 3.4 to the components of the vector $\bar{h}(\theta_{n(k)})$. It is obvious that B1 holds and it remains to verify B2 for all components. We start at $\bar{h}^{(1)}(\theta_{n(k)})$ and take the components in order. The convergence of $\eta_{n(k)}$ follows because $\bar{h}^{(1)}(\theta_{n(k)})$ satisfies B2 since $\psi(\cdot)$ is increasing and odd. For $\sigma_{n(k)}$ we have

$$\bar{h}^{(2)}(\theta_{n(k)}) = \bar{h}^{(2)}(\theta_{n(k)}) - \bar{h}^{(2)}(\kappa_{n(k)}) + \bar{h}^{(2)}(\kappa_{n(k)}),$$

where

$$\kappa_{n(k)} = (\eta, \sigma_{n(k)}, a_{n(k)}, b_{n(k)})^T.$$

Assumptions A1 and A4 implies that $\bar{h}^{(2)}(\kappa_{n(k)}) = -\delta$ if $\sigma_{n(k)} > \sigma + \gamma$ because $\chi(\cdot)$ is increasing on $(0, \infty)$ and even and the first part of the assumption is satisfied from the fact that

$$\|\bar{h}^{(2)}(\theta_{n(k)}) - \bar{h}^{(2)}(\kappa_{n(k)})\| \leq C\|\eta_{n(k)} - \eta\| \leq \delta/2$$

if k is large enough. This is due to the proved part above and the Lipschitz-continuity of $\bar{h}(x)$ as a function of x . The second part of the assumption follows in the same way. The convergence of $a_{n(k)}$ follows because

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}^{(3)}(\theta_{n(k)}) &= \bar{h}^{(3)}(\theta_{n(k)}) - \bar{h}^{(3)}(\lambda_{n(k)}) + \bar{h}^{(3)}(\lambda_{n(k)}) \\ &= \bar{h}^{(3)}(\theta_{n(k)}) - \bar{h}^{(3)}(\lambda_{n(k)}) + a - a_{n(k)} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\lambda_{n(k)} = (\eta, \sigma, a_{n(k)}, b_{n(k)})^T.$$

The Lipschitz-continuity makes it possible to choose N such that

$$\|\bar{h}^{(3)}(\theta_{n(k)}) - \bar{h}^{(3)}(\lambda_{n(k)})\| \leq C(\|\eta - \eta_{n(k)}\| + \|\sigma - \sigma_{n(k)}\|) < \delta/2$$

for all $k > N$, and this proves that $a_{n(k)} \rightarrow a$. A similar argument shows that $b_{n(k)} \rightarrow b$.

The relation $\|\theta_{n(k+1)} - \theta_{n(k)}\| \rightarrow 0$ and the previous result (3.4) proves the remaining part of the theorem. \square

4. COMMENTS ON THE ASYMPTOTIC DISTRIBUTION AND ON THE CHOICE OF THE ADAPTIVE MATRIX.

In Section 3 we proved strong consistency of the algorithm (2.1). In order to discuss our choice of H_n we also need results for the asymptotic distribution of the algorithm.

The asymptotic distribution can be derived from a strong represen-

tation theorem which is proved in Englund, Holst and Ruppert (1987). The same theorem is stated here without proof to facilitate the discussion below. (By the notation \tilde{x} in this section we mean a continuous and differentiable version of (2.3).)

THEOREM 4.1 If A1, A3-A5 hold and θ_n is given by the algorithm (2.1), then there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that

$$n^{1/2}(\theta_n - \theta) = n^{-1/2} \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{k=1}^n a^{-1} \sigma \psi(z_k) \\ \sum_{k=1}^n b^{-1} \sigma \chi(z_k) \\ d_1 \sum_{k=1}^n \log\left(\frac{k}{n}\right) \chi(z_k) + \sum_{k=1}^n (\psi'(z_k) - a) \\ d_2 \sum_{k=1}^n \log\left(\frac{k}{n}\right) \chi(z_k) + \sum_{k=1}^n (z_k \chi'(z_k) - b) \end{pmatrix} + O(n^{-\epsilon}),$$

where $z_k = \sigma^{-1}(y_k - \eta)$, $d_1 = b^{-1} E(z_1 \psi''(z_1))$ and $d_2 = 1 + b^{-1} E(z_1^2 \chi''(z_1))$.

For a sequence of independent observations the theorem gives

$$n^{1/2}(\theta_n - \theta) \in \text{As } N(0, V),$$

where

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} v_{11} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & v_{22} & v_{23} & v_{24} \\ & & v_{33} & v_{34} \\ & & & v_{44} \end{pmatrix}$$

with variance elements

$$v_{11} = a^{-2} \sigma^2 E \psi^2(z),$$

$$v_{22} = b^{-2} \sigma^2 E \chi^2(z),$$

$$v_{33} = V(\psi'(z)) + 2d_1^2 V(\chi(z)) - 2d_1 C(\chi(z), \psi'(z)),$$

$$V_{44} = V(z\chi'(z)) + 2d_2^2 V(\chi(z)) - 2d_2 C(\chi(z), z\chi'(z)),$$

and covariance elements

$$V_{23} = -d_1 b^{-1} \sigma V(\chi(z)) + b^{-1} \sigma C(\chi(z), \psi'(z)),$$

$$V_{24} = -d_2 b^{-1} \sigma V(\chi(z)) + b^{-1} \sigma C(\chi(z), z\chi'(z)),$$

$$V_{34} = 2d_1 d_2 V(\chi(z)) - d_1 C(\chi(z), z\chi'(z)) - d_2 C(\chi(z), \psi'(z)) + C(z\chi'(z), \psi'(z)).$$

In the remaining part of this section we discuss whether H_n in Section 3 is optimal or if we can find a better one.

Given a recursive algorithm it is well known that the "optimal" adaptive matrix H^{opt} is the negative inverse of the derivatives of $\bar{h}(\theta)$.

Here we get

$$H^{\text{opt}} = \begin{pmatrix} E(\psi'(z)) & E(z\psi'(z) - \psi(z)) & 0 & 0 \\ E(\chi'(z)) & E(z\chi'(z) - \chi(z)) & 0 & 0 \\ E(\sigma^{-1}\psi''(z)) & E(\sigma^{-1}z\psi''(z)) & 1 & 0 \\ E(\sigma^{-1}(\chi'(z) + z\chi''(z))) & E(\sigma^{-1}(z\chi'(z) + z^2\chi''(z))) & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1}$$

If ψ is odd and χ even this reduces to

$$(4.1) \quad H^{\text{opt}} = \begin{pmatrix} a^{-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(b\sigma)^{-1} E(z\psi''(z)) & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sigma^{-1}(1+b^{-1}E(z^2\chi''(z))) & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

where as above $a = E(\psi'(z))$ and $b = E(z\chi'(z))$. The values of a , b , $E(z\psi''(z))$ and $E(z^2\chi''(z))$ are in general unknown and if we try to estimate $E(z\psi''(z))$ and $E(z^2\chi''(z))$ we get more elements in the parameter vector.

It is however worth noting that this more complicated algorithm may reduce the asymptotic variances of a_n and b_n . If we assume that we

know the values of $d_1 = b^{-1}E(z\psi''(z))$ and $d_2 = 1+b^{-1}E(z^2\chi''(z))$ and insert them and the truncated estimates of a and b in the matrix H^{opt} we get the algorithm

$$(4.2) \quad \begin{cases} \eta'_{n+1} = \eta'_n + (n+1)^{-1} \hat{\sigma}'_n \psi(u'_{n+1}) / \hat{a}'_n, \\ \sigma'_{n+1} = \sigma'_n + (n+1)^{-1} \hat{\sigma}'_n \chi(u'_{n+1}) / \hat{b}'_n, \\ a'_{n+1} = a'_n + (n+1)^{-1} (\psi(u'_{n+1}) - d_1 \chi(u'_{n+1}) - a'_n), \\ b'_{n+1} = b'_n + (n+1)^{-1} (u'_{n+1} \chi(u'_{n+1}) - d_2 \chi(u'_{n+1}) - b'_n), \end{cases}$$

where $u'_{n+1} = (y_{n+1} - \eta'_n) / \hat{\sigma}'_n$. It is easy to prove that this algorithm satisfies $\theta'_n \rightarrow \theta$ a.s. and from the technique used in Englund, Holst and Ruppert (1987) it also follows for *independent* observations that

$$n^{1/2}(\theta'_n - \theta) \in As N(0, V'),$$

where

$$V' = \begin{pmatrix} V_{11} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & V_{22} & V_{23} & V_{24} \\ & & V'_{33} & V'_{34} \\ & & & V'_{44} \end{pmatrix}$$

The only difference between V and V' is the elements

$$\begin{aligned} V'_{33} &= V(\psi'(z)) + d_1^2 V(\chi(z)) - 2d_1 C(\chi(z), \psi'(z)) \\ V'_{44} &= V(z\chi'(z)) + d_2^2 V(\chi(z)) - 2d_2 C(\chi(z), z\chi'(z)). \\ V'_{34} &= d_1 d_2 V(\chi(z)) - d_1 C(\chi(z), z\chi'(z)) - d_2 C(\chi(z), \psi'(z)) + \\ &\quad + C(z\chi'(z), \psi'(z)). \end{aligned}$$

Note that the variances V_{33} and V_{44} for the algorithm in Section 2 both are larger than V'_{33} and V'_{44} .

As an example we take Huber's Proposal 2 with $k = 1.5$. Although the functions defined in (1.2) do not satisfy A2 and A5 it is conjectured in Englund, Holst and Ruppert (1987) that the theorem is

valid if d_1 and d_2 are interpreted as $d_1 = -2b^{-1}kf(k)$ and $d_2 = 2 - 4b^{-1}k^3f(k)$, where f is the density of z . For this choice and independent $N(0,1)$ distributed random variables we get

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 1.0371 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0.6894 & 0.0621 & 0.2797 \\ & & 0.1641 & 0.2262 \\ & & & 1.2326 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$V' = \begin{pmatrix} 1.0371 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0.6894 & 0.0621 & 0.2797 \\ & & 0.0600 & 0.2699 \\ & & & 1.2143 \end{pmatrix}$$

Observe that $b'_n = 2k^2a'_n - 2(k^2 - \beta_k)$ for Huber's Proposal 2, which implies that $\rho(a'_n, b'_n) = 1$ and hence the number of components of θ'_n reduces to three.

It is our intention to study algorithm (4.2) with estimates of d_1 and d_2 in the near future. For Huber's Proposal 2 we only have to estimate d_1 and this makes use of H^{opt} more feasible.

5. A NUMERICAL EXAMPLE.

In this section we give a numerical example of the adaptive estimator defined in Section 2 when $\{y_c\}_1^{1000}$ is a sequence of independent r.v. with a contaminated normal distribution $0.9N(0,1)+0.1N(0,25)$. We will use Huber's Proposal 2, defined in (1.2). The constant k is chosen to 1.5 which makes $\beta_{1.5} = 0.7784$. The variables σ_n , a_n and b_n are all truncated below by 0.1 and above by 10. To avoid that bad early estimates of $\tilde{\sigma}_n$, \tilde{a}_n and \tilde{b}_n influence the results too much we take $H_n = I$ and

$$h(\theta_n, y_{n+1}) = \begin{pmatrix} \psi(\hat{\sigma}_n^{-1}(y_{n+1} - \eta_n)) \\ \chi(\hat{\sigma}_n^{-1}(y_{n+1} - \eta_n)) \\ \psi'(\hat{\sigma}_n^{-1}(y_{n+1} - \eta_n)) - a_n \\ \hat{\sigma}_n^{-1}(y_{n+1} - \eta_n) \chi'(\hat{\sigma}_n^{-1}(y_{n+1} - \eta_n)) - b_n \end{pmatrix}$$

if $n \leq 50$. The initial value is $\theta_0 = (0, 1, 0, 0)^T$ and the solution of (2.4) is $(\eta, \sigma, a, b)^T = (0, 1.1346, 0.8468, 0.8024)^T$.

The figures below are produced to give an impression of the behaviour of the recursive estimates. The performance of η_n , σ_n , a_n and b_n for $n = 1, \dots, 1000$ is shown in Figures 5.1 - 5.4 respectively. Also the recursive least squares estimator of η , the sample mean, is given in Figure 5.1 for comparison. The arrows in the figures indicate the convergence points.

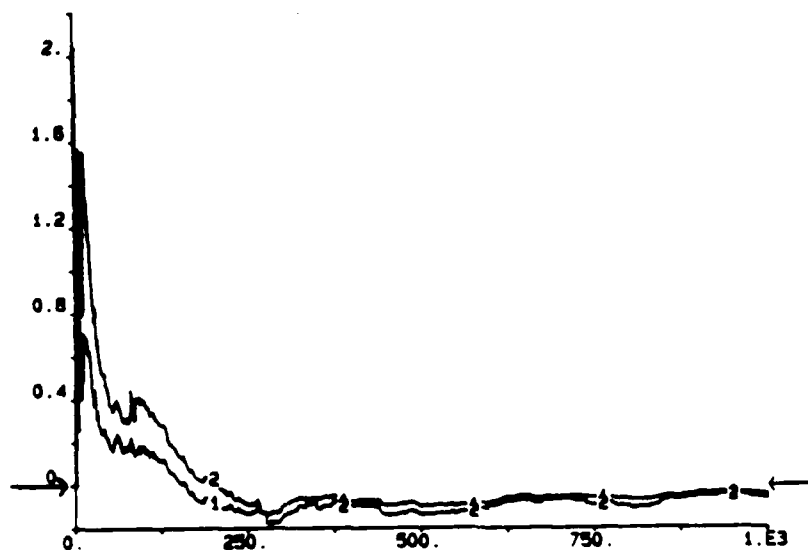
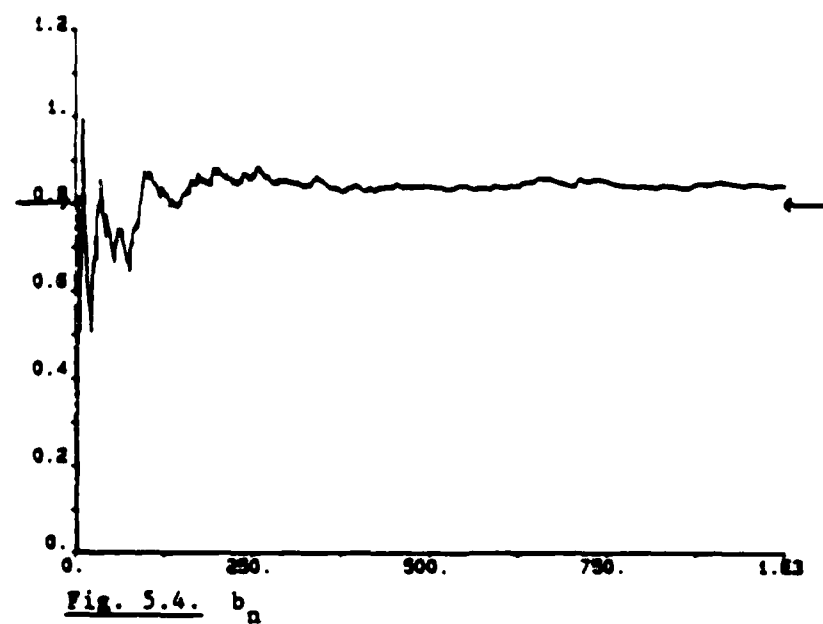
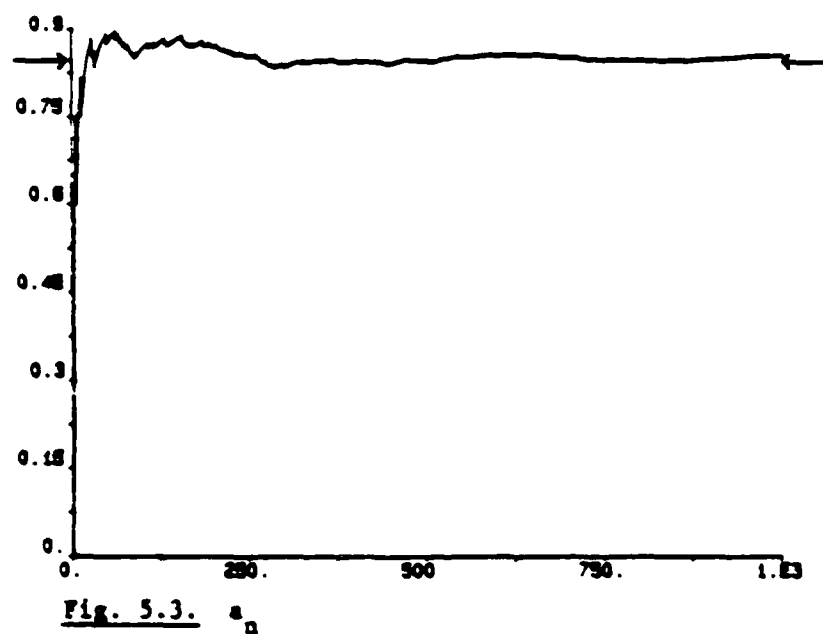
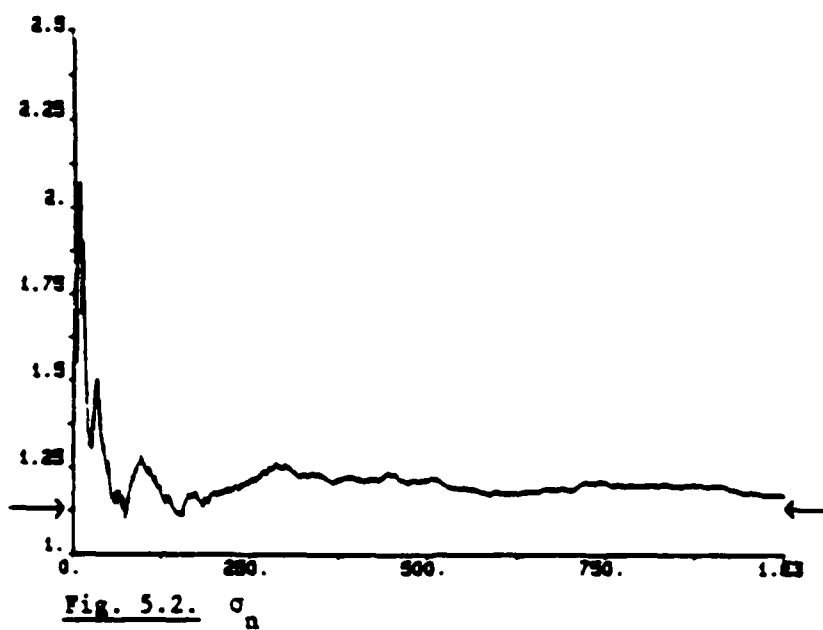


Fig. 5.1. 1: η_n
2: sample mean



Finally we mention that the asymptotic variance is 1.3977 for the recursive estimator, while the least squares estimator has the asymptotic variance 3.4000.

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